MARVEL
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ULTRAMAN
THE TRIALS OF
ULTRAMAN
HIGGINS
GROOM
MANNA
GRUNDETJERN
ARTHUR ADAMS 12-17-2020
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Shin Hayata merged with the alien being known as Ultra to become Ultraman! Using the Beta Capsule, Shin can utilize Ultraman's superhuman strength, flight and energy rays-but only for three-minute increments. Working alongside the United Science Patrol, Ultraman protects the Earth from Kaiju, monstrous interdimensional invaders.

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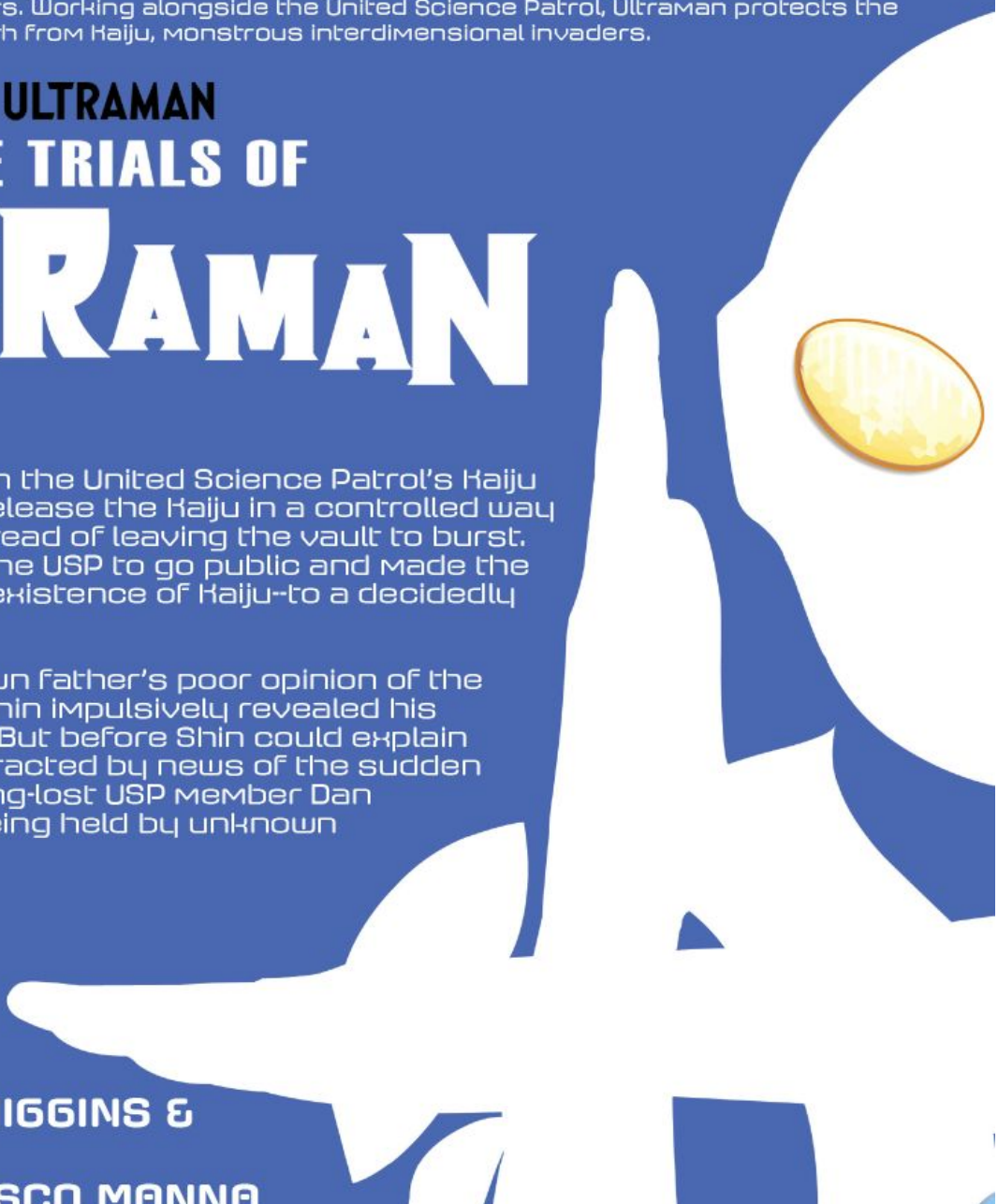

Ultraman broke open the United Science Patrol's Kaiju Vault, choosing to release the Kaiju in a controlled way and battle them instead of leaving the vault to burst. His actions forced the USP to go public and made the world aware of the existence of Kaiju--to a decidedly mixed reaction.

Frustrated by his own father's poor opinion of the USP and Ultraman, Shin impulsively revealed his dual identity to him. But before Shin could explain further, he was distracted by news of the sudden reappearance of long-lost USP member Dan Moroboshi, who's being held by unknown captors.

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ULTRAMAN Created by Tsuburaya Productions and Presented by Marvel Comics.

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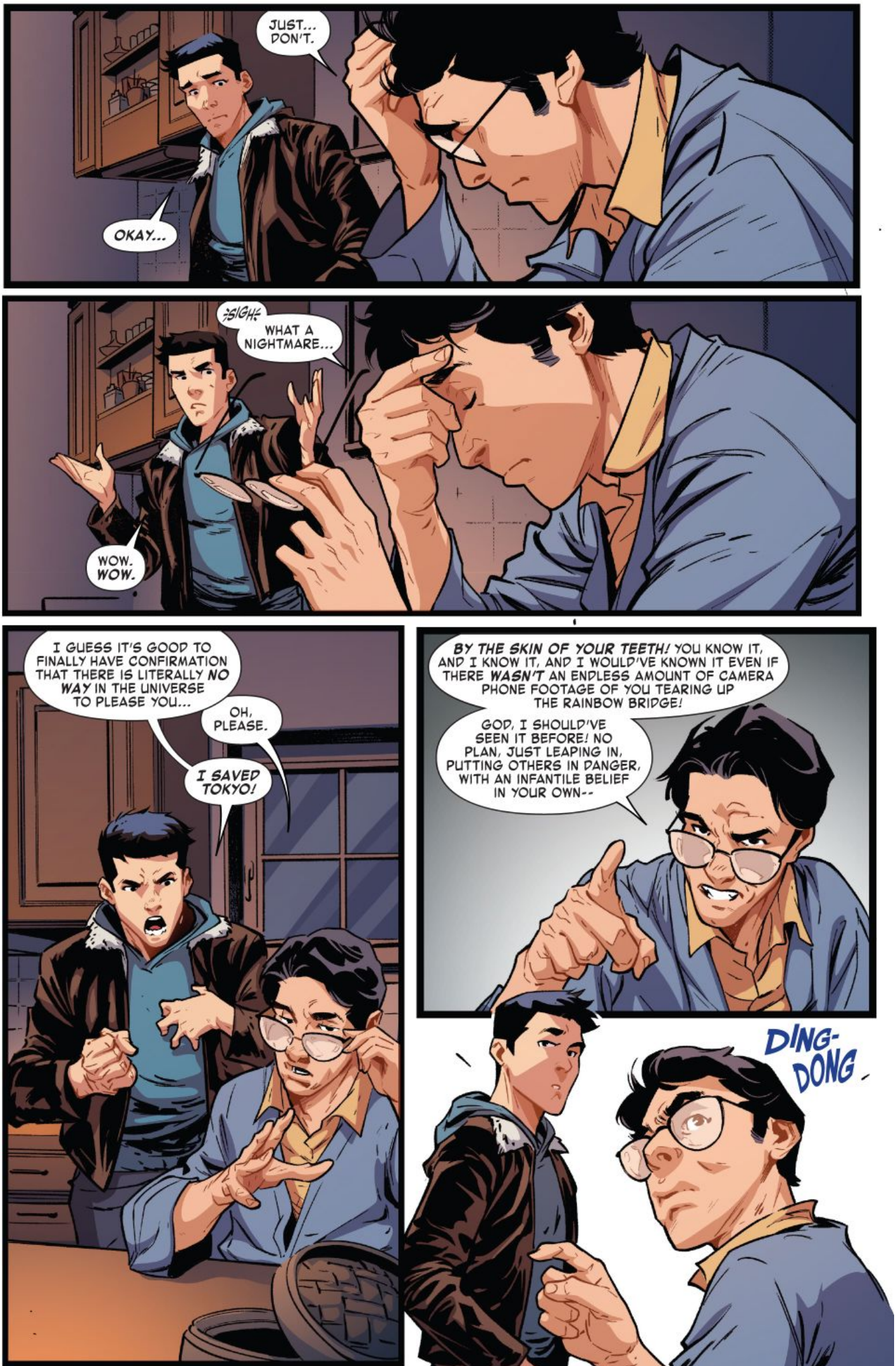
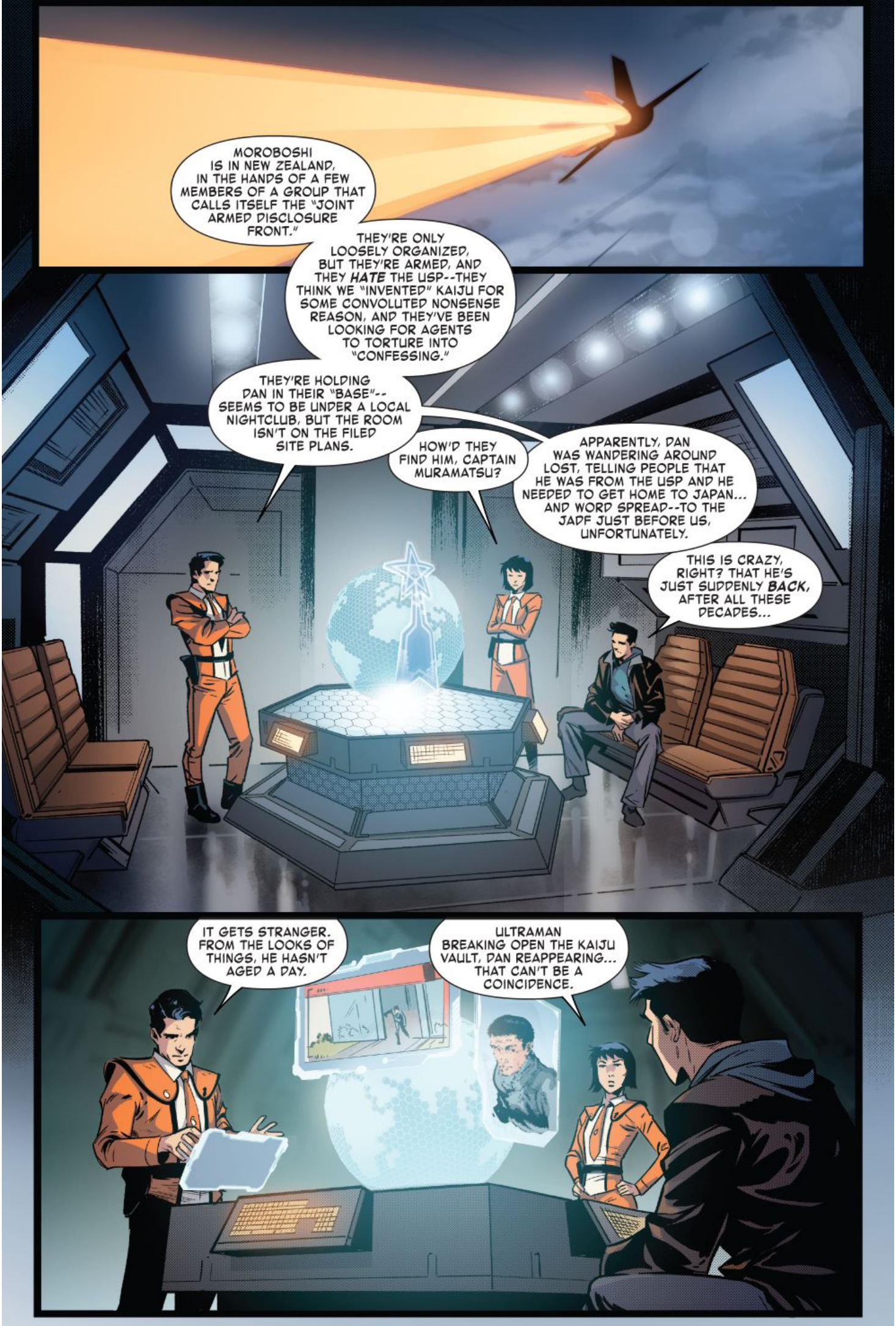
Tokyo.
The home of Shin Hayata's father.
DAN MOROBOSHI IS ALIVE?!
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THAT WAY.
THIS DAN MOROBOSHI--HE WAS THE LAST ONE TO SEE MY BROTHER ALIVE. I IMPLORE YOU--ASK IF MY BROTHER HAS BEEN SIGHTED.
OKAY, SO, THE USP HAS TO RESCUE HIM THEN, RIGHT? WHAT'S THE PLAN?
THERE'S BEEN SOME...UNCERTAINTY FROM COMMAND ON THAT, SHIN. WE'RE COMING TO PICK YOU UP NOW THOUGH. WILL FILL YOU IN SHORTLY.
COPY THAT.
HEY, KIKI-- I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE HAVE BEEN ANY REPORTS OF ANOTHER ULTRA...?
WE HAD THE SAME THOUGHT, BUT NO. NOTHING. AND THEY'RE RATHER CONSPICUOUS.
YEAH. OKAY. SEE YOU SOON.
WELL...

...YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
NO, DAD. I WASN'T.
YOU'RE THIS... "ULTRAMAN"...
YES.
HM.
IT'S...PRETTY COMPLICATED. THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THEY--
DON'T.
DON'T WHAT...?


JUST... DON'T.
OKAY...
:SIGH:
WHAT A NIGHTMARE...
WOW. WOW.
I GUESS IT'S GOOD TO FINALLY HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THERE IS LITERALLY NO WAY IN THE UNIVERSE TO PLEASE YOU...
OH, PLEASE.
I SAVED TOKYO!
BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH! YOU KNOW IT, AND I KNOW IT, AND I WOULD'VE KNOWN IT EVEN IF THERE WASN'T AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF CAMERA PHONE FOOTAGE OF YOU TEARING UP THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!
GOD, I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT BEFORE! NO PLAN, JUST LEAPING IN, PUTTING OTHERS IN DANGER, WITH AN INFANTILE BELIEF IN YOUR OWN--
DING-DONG

AH. KIKI. YOU'RE A PART OF THIS TOO, THEN.
FIGURES.
MR. HAYATA. ALWAYS A PLEASURE.
C'MON, SHIN.
YOU KNOW, YOU WON'T HAVE TO PERSONALLY DELIVER YOUR DAD'S GROCERIES IF HE SHOPS ONLINE...
YEAH. I THINK HE'S GOING TO NEED TO DO THAT FROM NOW ON...


MOROBOSHI IS IN NEW ZEALAND, IN THE HANDS OF A FEW MEMBERS OF A GROUP THAT CALLS ITSELF THE "JOINT ARMED DISCLOSURE FRONT."
THEY'RE ONLY LOOSELY ORGANIZED, BUT THEY'RE ARMED, AND THEY *HATE* THE USP--THEY THINK WE "INVENTED" KAIJU FOR SOME CONVOLUTED NONSENSE REASON, AND THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR AGENTS TO TORTURE INTO "CONFESSING."
THEY'RE HOLDING DAN IN THEIR "BASE"--SEEMS TO BE UNDER A LOCAL NIGHTCLUB, BUT THE ROOM ISN'T ON THE FILED SITE PLANS.
HOW'D THEY FIND HIM, CAPTAIN MURAMATSU?
APPARENTLY, DAN WAS WANDERING AROUND LOST, TELLING PEOPLE THAT HE WAS FROM THE USP AND HE NEEDED TO GET HOME TO JAPAN... AND WORD SPREAD--TO THE JADF JUST BEFORE US, UNFORTUNATELY.
THIS IS CRAZY, RIGHT? THAT HE'S JUST SUDDENLY *BACK*, AFTER ALL THESE DECADES...
IT GETS STRANGER. FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, HE HASN'T AGED A DAY.
ULTRAMAN BREAKING OPEN THE KAIJU VAULT, DAN REAPPEARING... THAT CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.

THAT'S A MYSTERY FOR LATER. HE MIGHT'VE BEEN MISSING FOR A GOOD LONG WHILE, BUT MOROBOSHI IS STILL USP, SO OUR PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS HIS SAFE RETURN.
RIGHT. WHAT SORT OF USP BACKUP CAN WE EXPECT, CAPTAIN?
NONE. NOW THAT WE CAN'T USE K-RAYS AND SO MANY SMALL KAIJU HAVE RETURNED, OUR COMBAT TEAMS ARE ALREADY OVERSTRETCHED AND OVERWHELMED.
LOCAL POLICE?
I TALKED TO THEM...BUT THEY'RE HESITANT TO TAKE ON A HEAVILY ARMED MILITIA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY, THEN ATTEMPT TO CHARGE THEM FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF A MAN WHO DISAPPEARED 56 YEARS AGO.
YEAH, A LOT OF PRECEDENT AND JURISDICTION ISSUES THERE, I IMAGINE...
OKAY. IT'S JUST US. SO...WE NEED ULTRAMAN.
I DON'T KNOW, SHIN. I'M ALL FOR "NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND," BUT...YOU HAVE A FINITE AMOUNT OF ULTRA ENERGY, AND WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW MANY GIANT KAIJU ARE OUT THERE. WE HAVE TO BALANCE THIS-- LITERALLY--AGAINST THE FATE OF THE WORLD.
ANOTHER CONSIDERATION: DEPLOYING ULTRAMAN AGAINST CIVILIANS WHEN THE USP IS FIGHTING A DIFFICULT PUBLIC RELATIONS BATTLE ALREADY...
I WOULDN'T HURT ANYONE.
EVEN SO...
HM.
HEED THEIR GUIDANCE, SHIN HAYATA. AS MUCH AS I LONG TO SEE MY BROTHER AGAIN, THE CONFLICTS OF HUMANS ARE NOT OURS TO INTERCEDE IN. ULTRAS ARE AVOWED NOT TO FIGHT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
OKAY...YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED ANOTHER WAY.

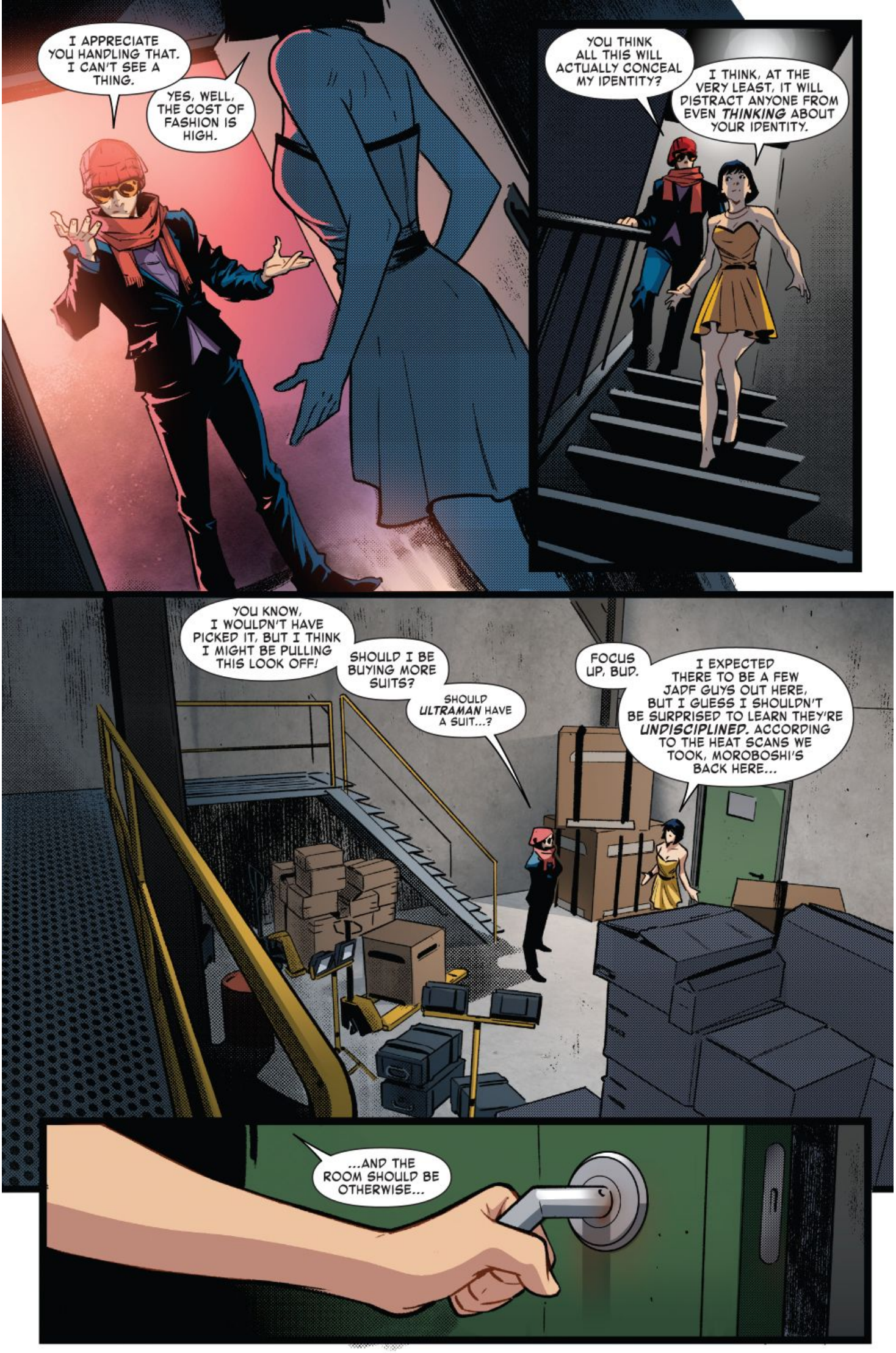
THE ULTRA CAN'T GET INVOLVED HERE. NOT DIRECTLY. AND RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'D BE GETTING OURSELVES INTO.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST WALK RIGHT IN AND ASK.
THOUGH IF WE MADE A QUICK STOP--
NO. NEVER MIND.
COME ON, CAPTAIN. ANY IDEA IS BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW.
OKAY... BUT PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LAUGH.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST *NICE* PAIR OF SUNGLASSES I'VE BOUGHT IN MY LIFE. I WANT TO GET IT RIGHT...
THIS IS NOT A GAME, SHIN HAYATA.
MM, THESE MIGHT BE THE ONES. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK THAT YOU ARE NOT *HEARING* ME.
I DO HEAR YOU. AND I *UNDERSTAND.* *ULTRAS* CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN HUMAN AFFAIRS.
SO THIS IS A JOB FOR *SHIN AND KIKI.* AS CRAZY AS HIS IDEA WAS, CAPTAIN MURAMATSU IS RIGHT-- KIKI AND I ARE THE RIGHT AGE FOR THIS PLACE.
AND THE MORE DETAILED HEAT SCAN OF THE BUILDING SHOWS THAT DAN IS MOST LIKELY BEING HELD BY HIMSELF.
SO KIKI AND I WILL SNEAK IN, MAKE OUR WAY TO DAN...AND *WE* WILL GET HIM *OUT.* YOU HAVE MY WORD...

"...WE'RE ALL TAKING THIS *VERY* SERIOUSLY."
BONGO LOCO
Auckland, New Zealand.
STAFF
HEEEEY, HI, HELLO THERE. LITTLE AWKWARD, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A PLACE A GIRL MIGHT BE ABLE TO, Y'KNOW, *POWDER HER NOSE*...
STAFF ONLY
OPPOSITE WALL.
OH, HA, NO, I KNOW, BUT THAT'S THE BATHROOM THE ***REST*** USE, YOU KNOW? I'M LOOKING FOR THE ***GOOD*** BATHROOM...
LADY, I DON'T--
DO YOU EVEN ***KNOW*** WHO I ***AM?*** LIKE--DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SOMETHING LIKE THIS BRACELET ***COSTS?***

NNNN!
KZZT
I SURE DON'T.

THE PLATINUM IS FAKE, BUT I'M SURE SPECIALIST IDE'S MINIATURE LIGHTNING GUN COST A PRETTY PENNY...
STAFF ONLY
WE'RE CLEAR.
STAFF ONLY


I APPRECIATE YOU HANDLING THAT. I CAN'T SEE A THING.
YES, WELL, THE COST OF FASHION IS HIGH.
YOU THINK ALL THIS WILL ACTUALLY CONCEAL MY IDENTITY?
I THINK, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WILL DISTRACT ANYONE FROM EVEN *THINKING* ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY.
YOU KNOW, I WOULDN'T HAVE PICKED IT, BUT I THINK I MIGHT BE PULLING THIS LOOK OFF!
SHOULD I BE BUYING MORE SUITS?
SHOULD *ULTRAMAN* HAVE A SUIT...?
FOCUS UP, BUD.
I EXPECTED THERE TO BE A FEW JADF GUYS OUT HERE, BUT I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THEY'RE *UNDISCIPLINED.* ACCORDING TO THE HEAT SCANS WE TOOK, MOROBOSHI'S BACK HERE...
...AND THE ROOM SHOULD BE OTHERWISE...

...EMPTY.
DAMN.
WELL, HELLO.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
I ASSUME THESE FOLKS HERE ARE FRIENDS OF YOURS. SO NOW IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE, AS I ASK YOU THIS ONE FINAL TIME--HOW DOES THE USP MAKE THEIR KAIJU?
I'VE... ALREADY TOLD YOU...THE USP DOESN'T MAKE KAIJU. OR-- THEY DIDN'T.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DO NOW, AND I DON'T KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE.

LIAR!
KRAK
HEY! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!
YOU KNOW, WE'VE FIGURED OUT ONE WAY YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT. WE JUST WANT TO KNOW IF WE GOT IT RIGHT. SO YOU'D BARELY EVEN BE DIVULGING A SECRET.
ALL WE NEED IS THE CONFESSION, AND--
WELL, WE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T LET YOU GO, BUT WE WOULDN'T KILL YOU RIGHT THIS SECOND, EITHER.
NO? OKAY. THIS IS HOW YOU DIE, THEN.
IT'S NOT HOW WE DIE.
BUT IT DOES SEEM LIKE IT WARRANTS AN EXCEPTION.

SHOOT IT! SHOOT THEM!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
TING
TING
KATING
KATING

RIGHT. OKAY, THEN-- I CAN AT LEAST KILL YOU--
BANG
NO.
TING
WHOOSH
WE WILL NOT FIGHT.

BLAM
KTANG
KTANG
OKAY. ALL RIGHT! I CAN SEE THAT WE'RE NOT GETTING PAST YOU, TIN MAN, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET BOTH OF THEM PAST US EITHER.
IT'S A STALEMATE.
YEAH, YEAH IT IS...
MEN, FALL BACK!
ACTIVATE IT. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
THAT FELT SUSPICIOUSLY EASY...
DAN MOROBOSHI. WE ARE ULTRAMAN. THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS. ONCE YOU SA--
KOOOOOM

UH, CAPTAIN? REALLY WOULD'VE APPRECIATED A HEADS-UP THAT THERE'S A KAIJU IN THE AREA!
I'M LOOKING AT A SCANNER RIGHT NOW, CADET. THERE AREN'T ANY KAIJU.

I BEG TO DIFFER!
WE RECOMMEND RAPID DEPARTURE.
AND FOR OURSELVES...
...DECISIVE ACTION!
?!

IS THAT A--A ROBOT?! BUT...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
SHIN! IT IS PREPARING TO--
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT

The forces aligned against the USP and Ultraman are far more widespread--and organized--than Shin and his friends ever suspected. If they're going to survive, they'll need a new ally of their own. . .and the man they're looking at just so happens to be one of the most powerful and influential people in the world. But what's his history with the USP, and does he have a hidden agenda of his own?

ZONE